

# Biometrics: Facing Up to Terrorism

## A Briefing for the Biometric Consortium Conference

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Feb. 13, 2002 - Arlington, Virginia



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## The State of Biometrics

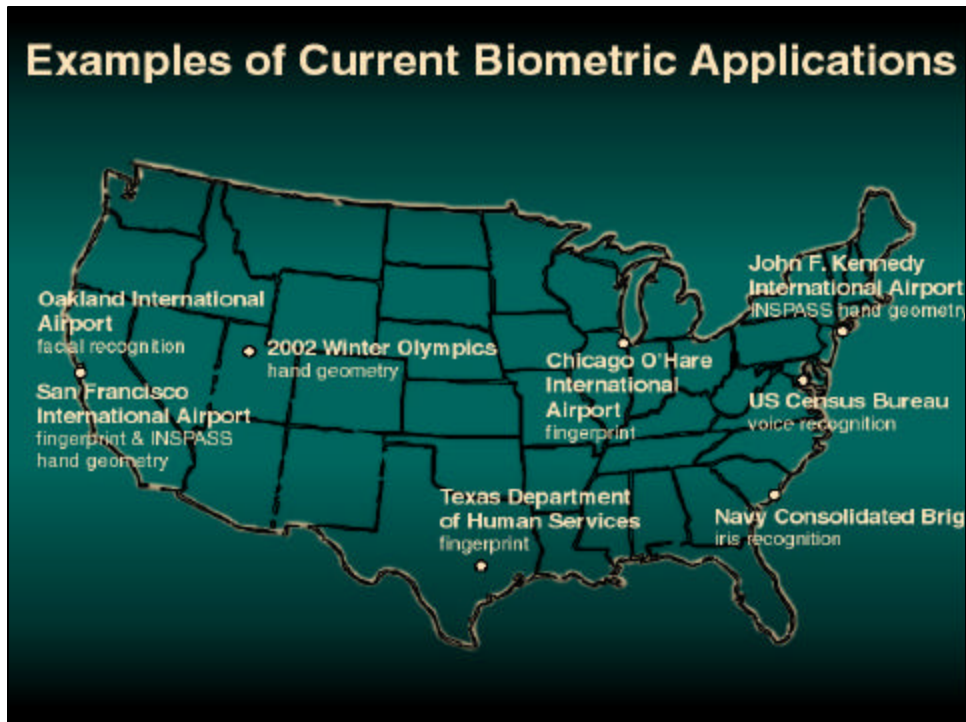
### Pre - 9/11

- Do we need biometrics?
- Exotic, expensive, fringe technology
- Privacy concerns

### Post - 9/11

- Why aren't we using biometrics?
- Mainstream, primetime technology
- Security concerns

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## Reaping the Biometric Harvest

Experimentation with different technologies and approaches to improve biometrics

Familiarize public with biometrics

Solve current problems

## Obstacles to the Success of Biometrics

### Fragmentation of Applications

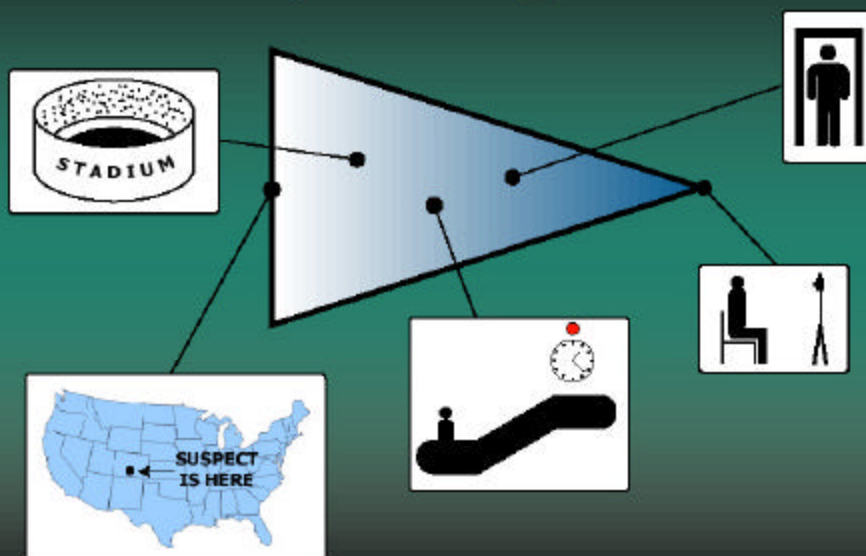
- Lack of interoperability
- Diverse systems
- Uneven deployment

### Restricted Dissemination of Knowledge

- Each organization “inventing its own wheel”
- Each organization conducting its own testing
- Overall effect: Inhibited technological progress

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## "FaceTrap" Triangle



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## **Solutions to Overcome Biometric Obstacles**

### **Fragmentation of Applications**

- Encourage interoperability for federal, state and local government applications
- Encourage comprehensive testing and evaluation

### **Restricted Dissemination of Knowledge**

- Use federal incentives (\$\$\$)
- Create a centralized testing and evaluation authority

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## **Solutions in Depth**

**Voluntary federal funding programs for early adoption and evaluation of biometric systems**

**Federal guidelines defining system compatibility**

**Central authority to:**

- Oversee T&E efforts
- Fund state and local biometric experimentation
- Help develop public body of knowledge

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## Conclusions

**Post - 9/11, greater interest in biometrics**

**Attention has fueled development efforts**

**Solutions to ensure success:**

- Fund and promote T&E
- Encourage adoption of and experimentation with biometrics
- Address interoperability concerns
- Grow public biometric knowledge base

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## For More Information, Please Contact:

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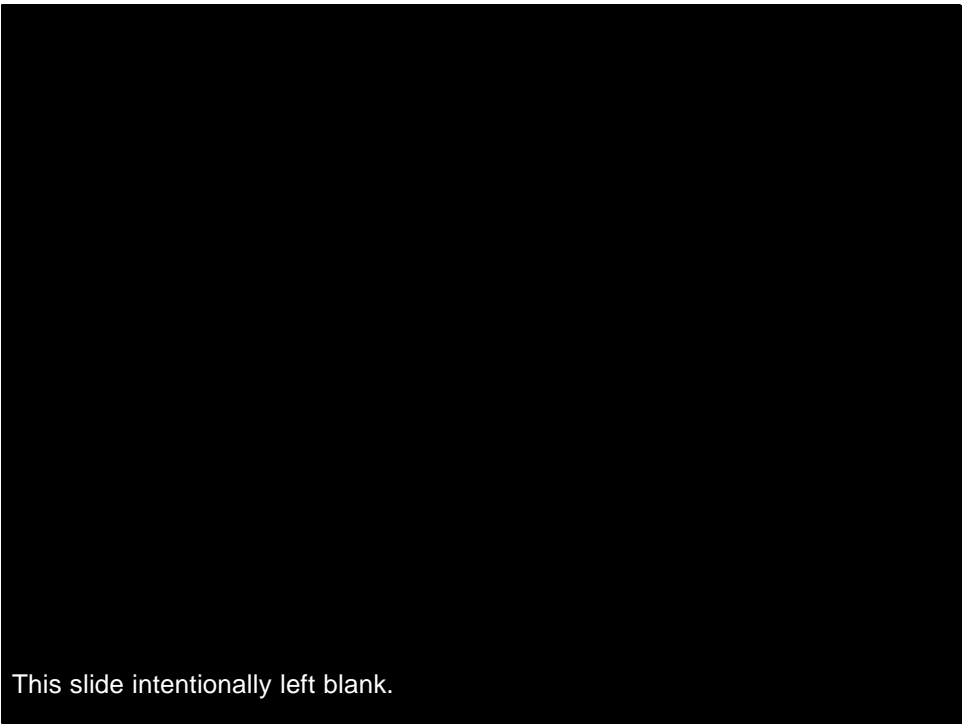
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**Publications available free of charge from RAND:**

- *Biometrics: Facing Up to Terrorism*, Issue Paper 218
- *Super Bowl Surveillance: Facing Up to Biometrics*, Issue Paper 209

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### Additional Slides

The following slides contain supplementary information not included in the main presentation.

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